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PROPOSES METHOD FOR IMPROVING ORGANIZATION OF RR "P.AI-HAC" PATROL SYSTEM IN CHINA

Chang Shih

## Introduction

The Ministry of Railways directive, Yang-kung-tzu No 124 (see T'ieh-tao Kung-pao /Railway Gazette Vol II, No 26), concerning the provisional regulations of the Railway Fatrol System, which involve the features of: (1) the shift scheme of scheduling patrol inty, and (2) the method of using patrol ing 1t, has been found good in principle but imperfect and confusing in certain respects, particularly at the beginning and end of each month.

In the spirit of preserving the principle of the directive, and remedying its imperfections so that the system and method will be more systematic, simplified, understandable and workable, the writer offers the following constructive suggestions for improvement. There suggestions have been tested on the Mukden Railway/ divisions and found workable and worthy of adoption. At ministry's directive. Some divisions have not yet put them into effect, hence these suggestions of ours are offered in the hope that their wider adoption may result in an improvement in the methods of planning and scheduling the work of railway patrol and maintenance.

# Concerning 3 Shift Scheme of Work Schedules

1. Difficulties Involved in the Original Directive

Since the months do not have the same number of days and it is not possible to have regular cycles, there is confusion at the beginning and end of each month, and in every division a new work plan and work schedule has to

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be worked out every month. This involves a day's work each time. The work schedule chart is not easily understood by the workmen. Since the men of the shifts, who in the course of a month give half time to patrol work /and the other half to maintenance and repairs/, have to cover the same amount of track, they are unable to give equal attention and care to inspection. As a result, track defects are often not noticed and are not remedied.

## 2. Proposed Work Schedule Chart

It is noted that 3 / the number of shifts divides equally into the figure 7. Hence we have ignored the section of the original directive pertaining to the 7-day (weekly) cycle, and modified certain symbols in the work schedule charts accordingly. (See appended Chart No 1.)

When one week (7 days) is taken as one work cycle, after the completion of which the same schedule is followed for the ensuing cycle, there is no necessary relation to the calendar month or calendar year, and thus the labor of making out new work schedules each month is unnecessary.

The labor and materials for the repeated preparation, as well as issue of the work schedules and charts, are thus saved.

The symbols used in the modified chart (Chart No 1) are clear, stand out, and hence easy on the eyes.

The chart is easy to explain to the workmen, and since it is based on a repetitive cycle, they can easily remember it and there is less chance of error in performance of assigned duties.

## 3. Concerning the Half-Patrol Shift

The half-patrol regularly devotes one half of his time (3 working days each week) to patrol work, and one half (3 days) to maintenance work. He does one seventh of the patrol work, and the three men of the other shifts do six sevenths of the patrol work. Thus, the patrol is completely provided for and it is not necessary to charge the assignments of the shifts each month.

The proposed scheme is in no sense in conflict with the principles of the ministry's original directive.

## Improvement of the Fat-hao Patrol Method

The ministry's directive states that the number of pai-hao should be the same as the number of work sections. Although the pai-hao for a work section necessarily vary as to on-duty time from month to month, still there is a system in this connection which is to be found embodied in the on-duty schedule. (See footnote appended to Chart No 3 in the Ministry's directive Yang-kung-tzu No 124.)

This method is like the one used in the Te-hsien Division beginning 1 January 1950. But if the number of work sections in the division is not a multiple of three, then the pai-hao lose their cyclic nature or have to revolve in an excessively long cycle, in which event, the execution of the method is attended by the following defects:

 A new work schedule has to be worked out for each month, involving the waste of one work day each month. STAT



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- The system, or methodical manner of arranging the work schedules referred to above, is not comprehended by the workers in the work sections, and does not stimulate their self-confidence or interest.
- 3. Generally speaking, a division has approximately 20 work sections and the monthly patrol duty schedule has to be arranged for 30 or 31 days. This irregularity causes the personnel serious difficulties.

According to our proposed method, one pai-hao is assigned to each work section: but in case the number of work sections is not a multiple of 3, we then add a few pai-hao. depending on the amount of track assigned to the responsibility of the section house. In this way the total number of pai-hao is made a multiple of 3.

Thereby the two-way patrol can be made cyclic in nature. To illustrate, at Te-haien there were 14 work sections: we added four pai-hao. Then the work cycle became 6 days. At Ts'ang-haien, there were 15 work-sections and it was not necessary to add any pai-hao because the work cycle was just 5 days. The Ch'in-huang-tao division had 17 work sections on the main line. To get a good work cycle four pai-hao were added and the work cycle became 7 days. This arrangement had the following advantages.

- 1. The two-way patrol duty schedule could be made out on a short-cycle besis, and it could be used over and over again without rearrangement each month. At Ts'ang'hsien and Te'hsien, since the work cycle was 5 days and 6 days, respectively, it was still necessary to make out new schedules, whereas at Ch'in-huang-tao, it was not necessary.
- 2. Upon the completion of a cycle of patrol duty, the same pai-hao is again issued for duty at the same hour for the same direction and task, and returned to the same work section where the work can be checked. This arrangement strengthens the patrolmen's confidence and sense of responsibility, and deepens their interest.
- It is not necessary to work out, print, and issue new work schedules each month. This saves labor and printing materials.
- 4. The section house has the pai-hao which are available at any time for examination and checking by higher level inspectors.

The method works as follows:

The two-way patrol schedule (Chart No 2) takes the work section as the unit, with each work section having a separate page (or sheet of paper). Each section house is responsible for the supervision of several (3-4) work sections. The division is responsible for the direction of the work of each section house.

The method of exchanging pai-hao with neighboring work-sections is as follows: Suppose a patrolman starts on duty at the Ch'ang-li work section at 0600 Sunday morning, carrying Fai-hao No 12. He proceeds along the "up run" to the meeting point with the nou-feng-tai work-section, reaching there at 0800. There he receives P'ai-hao No 11, turns around and travels, on the "down run," back to Ch'ang-li, which he reaches at 1000. He leaves P'ai-hao No 11 at the section house, receives P'ai-hao No 13 and continues on the down run to the meeting point with the Chang ke chuang work section, which he reaches at 1200. Here he gives up P'ai-hao No 13, and receives F'ai-hao No 16. reverses his direction, returns on the up run to Ch'ang-li which he reaches at 1400 and gives up F'ai-hao No 16, and completes the work of his shift, after putting P'ai-hao No 14 in the hands of the patrolman who follows him on the next shift. The new patrolman then starts on the up run to Hou-feng-t'ai, and so on, as per Chart No 2.

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A similar procedure is followed at the Lan-hsien work section; and thus at 0600 on the following Sunday morning Piai-hao No 12 has been returned to the Chiang-li Section House, where it is ready to be given to the patrolman to start of the same schedule of duty periods and beats as in the preceding week. Shifts begin and end at 0600, 1400, and 2200, but since the patrol distances of the different work sections are not all even, suitable adjustments are made so that there will be regular times for the patrolmen of adjacent work sections to meet at the section boundaries for the exchange of the piai-hao.

## Experiences in Using P'ai-hao

In the Railway Work Conference of the Tientsin-P'u-k'ou Railway at the end of 1949, we received our assigned tasks from the Ministry of Railways, and beginning 1 January 1950, we put into effect the system of responsibility for railway maintenance. At Ts-hsien we began to study the system of patrol respons.cility, and used the method of scheduling the two-way patrol system using the p'ai-hao exactly as directed by the ministry. At that time we had 24 work sections and used 24 p'ai-hao, with 8 days forming one cycle. In March 1950, to 14 work sections and 18 p'ai-hao with 6 days forming one cycle.

Following the general railway Conference on Work Schedules held 28 March [1950], we put into effect beginning 1 April the 3½ shift system of scheduling duty periods. Simultaneously, the Ts'ang-hsien Division put into effect the same system we have in use in the Ch'in-huang-tao Division, the system described in this article (see chart 3). Ch'in-huang-tao put this system fully into

After I was assigned to Ch'in-huang-tao, I undertook a study of the problem of scheduling two-way patrol duty periods using p'ai-hao. Due to the fact that in the Ch'in-huang-tao Division the work section dividing points, unlike those of Te-hsien, did not coincide with the railway stations, at first we experienced great difficulty in preparing the schedules.

Fortunately, a fellow worker, Sun Tung-shan, aided the writer in this task which occupied us for a whole day and night, and it was only at 0200 that we thought of the present method of exchange of p'ai-hao. At that time, a workable solution to our problem, due to the fact that prior to 28 March (1950) our upper echelon had not issued detailed instructions as to how to handle the matter. Te-hsien was the first place where this method was put into practice.

Appended charts follow.

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Chart 1. Ch'in-huang-tao Work Division, Maintenance Work Section

3½ Shift System Patrol Duty Schedule (In effect for week commencing --- 1950)

Day	8	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	<u>Fri</u>	Sat	G
Wor Per	king iods						===	540	Sun
Shift	Name of Workman	0600 1400 2200	0000						
A	Lee								8 F O
В	Wang							_	
С	Chang					_			
D	Chen		Η		1		H		Ħ

- 8 hr period -- Daylight patrol duty
- 8 hr period -- Half day half night patrol duty
- 8 hr period -- night patrol duty
- 8 hr period -- daylight maintenance work duty

One week of 7 days is one work cycle; when completed, repeat without changes.

Chart 2. Ch'in-huang-tao Division, Patrol Duty Schedule (example)

		( <u>p</u> 10)	
Day	Hours	Direction	P'ai-hao No
Sun	0000 - 04 0400 - 08 0800 - 12 1200 - 16 1600 - 20 2000 - 24	DO Up DOWN DO Up DO Up DO Up	13, 15 12. 14 11, 13 14, 16 9, 11 16, 18
Mon	0000 - 040 0400 - 080 0800 - 120 1200 - 160 1600 - 200 2000 - 240	O Up O Up O Up O Up	7, 9 18, 20 5, 7 20, 21 3, 5 21, 19
Etc	0000 - 040	Down	==, =,

Ch'ang-li Road Maintenance Section

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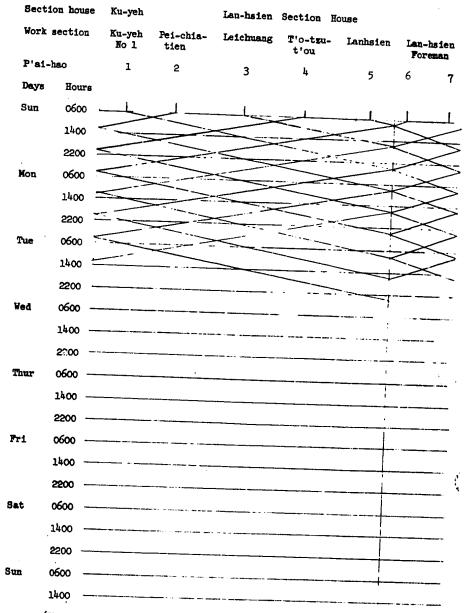
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# Chart 3. Ch'in-huang-tao Division Patrol Duty Schedule Planning Chart (Example)



(This is only one part of the work plan schedule; each section house has a similar schedule.

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